REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-14, 21, and 22 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 21, and 22 are amended. Claims 9 and 15-20 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 23-26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claim amendments may be found in the specification, at least at paragraphs [1023]-[1026], and [1035]. No new matter has been added. Applicants appreciate the interview with the Examiner on July 8, 2009.

Claims 1, 4-6, 10-14, and 21-22 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1, 4-6, 10-14, and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0065739 ("Florance"). Claims 23-26 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

The cited portions of Florance do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Florance fail to disclose or suggest that services offered by an application layer include receiving from an application program a list of property names of properties upon which one or more variables of the application program depends, as in claim 1.

In contrast to claim 1, Florance discloses a system of "linked databases and computers to provide a wide array of digital service offerings including a leasing marketplace, a selling marketplace, decision support, tenant information, comparable sales information, property marketing, and industry news. All of these services are preferably digitally delivered and most clients receive daily service updates over the Internet." Florance, [0052]. The information gathered by the system of Florance includes updates to property information on a daily basis. Florance, [0054]. The cited portions of Florance fail to disclose or suggest receiving from an application program a list of property names of properties upon which one or more variables of the application program depends, as in claim 1.

Therefore, the cited portions of Florance fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 4-6 and 10-14 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

The cited portions of Florance do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 21. For example, the cited portions of Florance fail to disclose or suggest that services offered by an application layer include registering applications, and receiving from an application a list of property names upon which one or more variables of the application depends, as in claim 21.

In contrast to claim 21, Florance discloses a system of "linked databases and computers to provide a wide array of digital service offerings including a leasing marketplace, a selling marketplace, decision support, tenant information, comparable sales information, property marketing, and industry news. All of these services are preferably digitally delivered and most clients receive daily service updates over the Internet." Florance, [0052]. The information gathered by the system of Florance includes updates to property information on a daily basis. Florance, [0054]. The cited portions of Florance fail to disclose or suggest that services offered by an application layer include registering applications, and receiving from an application a list of property names upon which one or more variables of the application depends, as in claim 21.

Therefore, the cited portions of Florance fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 21. Hence, claim 21 is allowable.

The cited portions of Florance do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 22. For example, the cited portions of Florance fail to disclose or suggest that services of an application layer include registering applications, and receiving from an application a list of property names upon which one or more variables of the application depends, as in claim 22.

In contrast to claim 22, Florance discloses a system of "linked databases and computers to provide a wide array of digital service offerings including a leasing marketplace, a selling marketplace, decision support, tenant information, comparable sales information, property marketing, and industry news. All of these services are preferably digitally delivered and most clients receive daily service updates over the Internet." Florance, [0052]. The information gathered by the system of Florance includes updates to property information on a daily basis. Florance, [0054]. The cited portions of Florance fail to disclose or suggest registering applications and receiving from an application a list of property names upon which one or more variables of the application depends, as in claim 22.

Therefore, the cited portions of Florance fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 22. Hence, claim 22 is allowable.

Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 2, 3, 7, and 8, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Florance, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,907,451 ("Mukundan"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 depend from claim 1. As explained above, the cited portions of Florance fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. The cited portions of Mukundan fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Florance. For example, the cited portions of Mukundan fail to disclose or suggest receiving from an application program a list of property names of properties upon which one or more variables of the application program depends, as in claim 1. In contrast to claim 1, Mukundan discloses an exchange between a client and a server. See Mukundan, FIG. 41 and column. 42, line 60 to column 43, line 9. In Mukundan, a client detects whether values in marked fields have changed and then sends the changed values to a server for processing. Mukundan, column, lines 1-6. The server processes the changes and responds to the client. Mukundan, column 43, lines 6-9. The cited portions of Mukundan fail to disclose or suggest receiving from an application program a list of property names of properties upon which one or more variables of the application program depends. Therefore, the cited portions of Florance and Mukundan, individually or in combination, fail to disclose at least one element of claim 1, from which claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 depend. Hence, claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the references as applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.
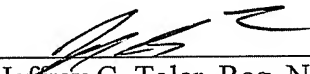
Any changes to the claims in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

7-21-2009
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Date

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